Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that there is no such proposal at present.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of above.

Misuse of Kisan Credit Cards

5032. SHRIC. P.THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the farmers are using Kisan Credit Card and Kisan Gold Card Scheme for purchase of goods, such as TVs, Motor cycle and refrigerators rather than farm inputs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cards issued to the farmers during the last financial year; and

(d) the amount advanced to purchase equipment against these cards during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b)The Kisan Credit Card Scheme aims at providing adequate and timely credit support from banking system to the farmers for their cultivation needs including purchase of inputs, in a flexible and cost effective manner. Purchase of goods such as televisions, motorcycle and refrigerator are not permitted under these schemes. NAB ARD has reported that no instance of farmers using Kisan Credit Card for purchase of such goods has come to its notice. The Kisan Gold Card Scheme introduced by State Bank of India is an agricultural term loan scheme in addition to the Kisan Credit Card Scheme and provides for meeting the farmers' agricultural term loan requirements including their consumption needs like expenditure on illness/hospitalisation/ family functions etc.

(c) and (d) As reported by NABARD, all banks including commercial, cooperative and regional rural bank, have issued 83,82,342 Kisan Credit Cards during the year 2001-2002 upto28th February, 2002. An amount of Rs. 25232.80 crores have been sanctioned through these cards.

Relaxation for insurgency affected region

5033. DR. ARUN KUMAR SAlRMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of special incentives, relaxation and exemption extended